RIDIE 飛龍

TATSUMI MADA

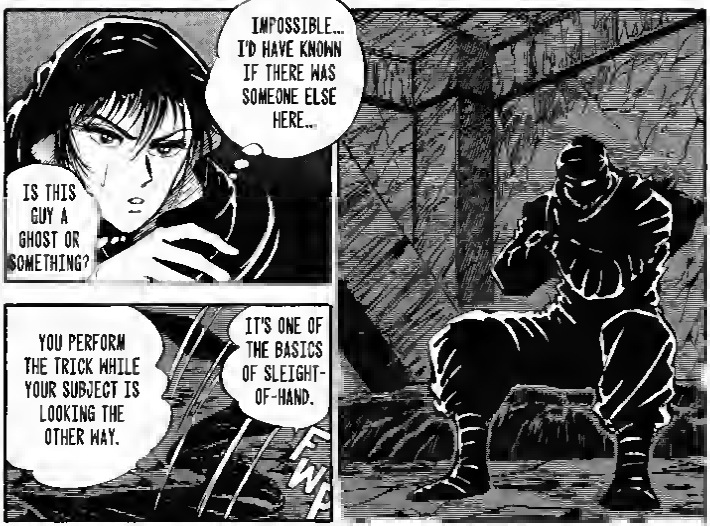
CHAPTER 2

WHAT IS WAITING ON THE UPCOMING PATH?!
THIS TIME, HIRYU'S WRATH EXPLODES!

SOON TO BE A VIDEO GAME!!

INSULATION AREA
KEEP OUT!
K-
CHK
AM I IMAGINING THINGS .
...?

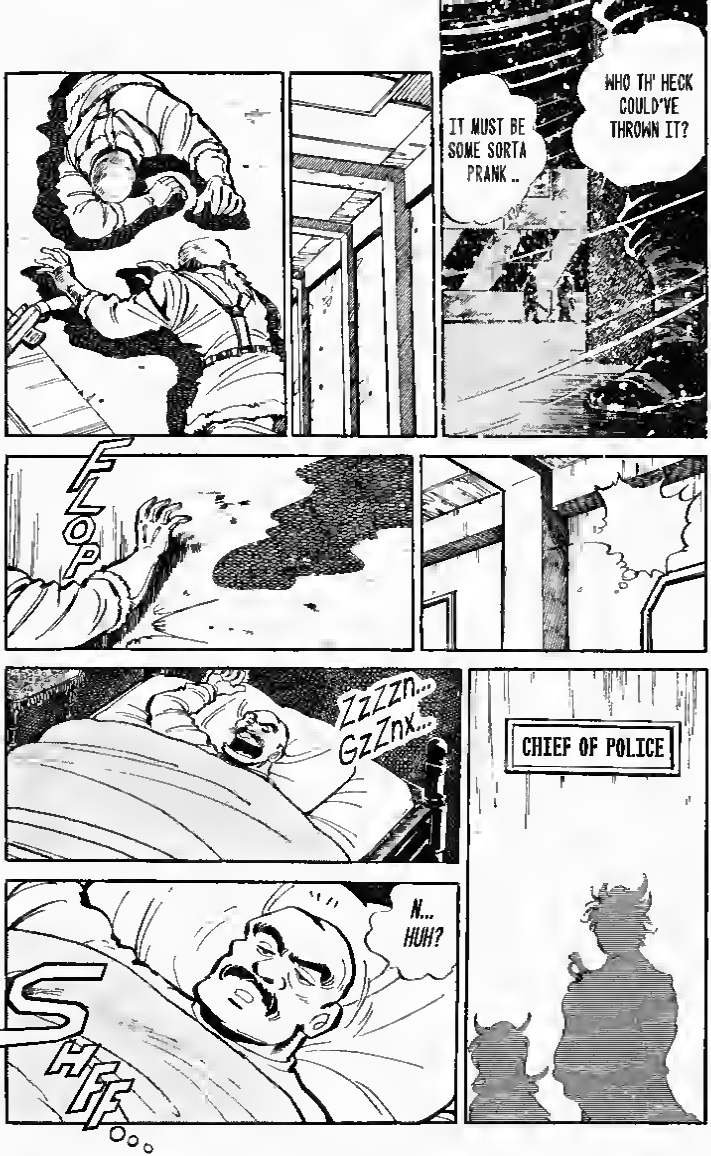
HMPH!
SOME KIDS WERE PROBABLY PLAYING NEARBY EARLIER TODAY AND THE WIND BLEW IT IN HERE...
A PAPER AIRPLANE . WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE ...?
K-
SHK
WHO'S THERE?!!
WHO...


IMPOSSIBLE... I'D HAVE KNOWN IF THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE HERE...
IS THIS GUY A GHOST OR SOMETHING?
IT'S ONE OF THE BASICS OF SLEIGHT-OF-HAND.
YOU PERFORM THE TRICK WHILE YOUR SUBJECT IS LOOKING THE OTHER WAY.
FWP

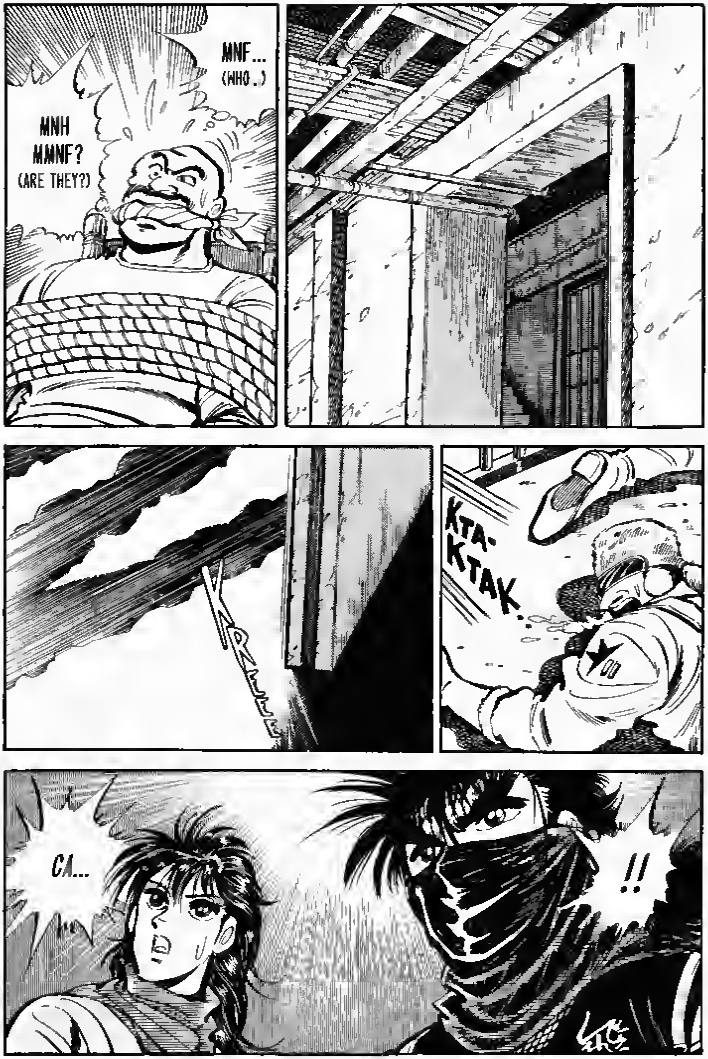
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT, SHEENA?

HAVE YOU REALLY REJOINED THE ORGANIZATION ..?!
IS IT REALLY YOU, HIRYU?!!
H..
HIRYU...
YOU RETURNED TO RESCUE HIM, DIDN'T YOU...?
I SEE... YOU'RE BACK BECAUSE CAIN WAS ARRESTED.
.....
SINCE HIS IDENTITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, SAVING HIM IS POINTLESS. HE MUST BE KILLED!!
WELL, NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, HIRYU...
...THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO FEAR!!

K-
TAK
HE'S AT THE SECRET POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
WHERE'S CAIN?
POLICE
A-337
WATCH OUT! IT COULD BE A PAPER BOMB!!
WHAT THE...? IT'S A PAPER AIRPLANE, ISN'T IT
H..HEY.. WHAT'S THAT?!
HUH?


WHO TH' HECK COULD'VE THROWN IT?
IT MUST BE SOME SORTA PRANK ..
FLOP
ZZZZn... GzZnx...
CHIEF OF POLICE
N... HUH?
SHFF ooo

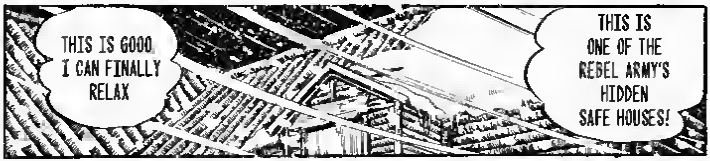
WHO...
WHO'S THERE?!!
WHERE'S CAIN...?


MNF...
(WHO..)
MNH
MMNF?
(ARE THEY?)
KTA-
KTAK..
CA...
!!

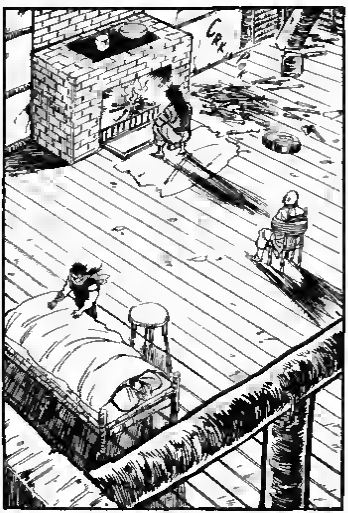
CAIN!
GASH
WAKE UP, CAIN!
SMAK
HE'S IN A COMA...
CAIN!

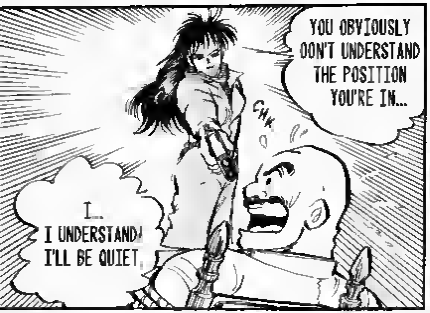
KILL HIM!! NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THE STRIDERS BUT ALSO FOR THE PEACEFUL LIFE YOU CREATED..!
.....
.....
DO YOU THINK THEY GAVE HIM SOME SORT OF ANESTHETIC?
IF HE WERE CONSCIOUS, HE WOULD HAVE JUMPED UP FROM THE PAIN WHEN I SQUEEZED THE PALM OF HIS HAND
I DUNNO..
THAT CAN'T BE.. YOU SAID HE'S TOTALLY OUT OF IT?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S DREAMING.
THAT'S ODD...
ANYHOW, WE NEED TO TAKE HIM SOMEPLACE SAFE...
THAT'S A CHARACTERISTIC OF R.E.M. SLEEP... THAT'S WHY HE APPEARS TO BE DREAMING.
YOU SEE HIS EYE MOVING AROUND...?
WHAT KIND OF HORRIBLE NIGHTMARES ARE THEY?
HE'S HAVING DREAMS WHILE HE'S ON THE VERGE OF DEATH..?

WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO LEAVE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
HALT!
IT... IT'S ME.
VRRRM
VRRRRMMM...
IT.. IT'S THE CHIEF OF POLICE PARDON ME, SIR!
SWOP
TCH


THIS IS GOOD. I CAN FINALLY RELAX
THIS IS ONE OF THE REBEL ARMY'S HIDDEN SAFE HOUSES!

IF... IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU BETTER THINK AGAIN!


CRK


YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POSITION YOU'RE IN...
CHK
I... I UNDERSTAND! I'LL BE QUIET.

SON-OF-A-BITCH!
YOU DID IT, HIRYU! YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST STRIDER EVER TO MAKE IT TO THE "SPECIAL A" RANK!
CAIN.
ARE YOU PISSING YOURSELF IDIOT?!!
I CAN'T KILL CAIN WHILE HE'S DEFENSELESS LIKE THIS.. I JUST CAN'T DO IT...
I CAN'T DO IT.
WE'LL WAIT A LITTLE LONGER AND SEE IF ANYTHING CHANGES..
HRMM..... EVEN THOUGH HIS BODY TEMPERATURE AND PULSE ARE BOTH NORMAL.. HE STILL WON'T WAKE UP..
WELL? HOW DOES IT LOOK...?

WHERE WERE YOU THESE PAST TWO YEARS...?
HIRYU..
HMM?
GZZZN..
POP
SMP
MONGOLIA..
MONGOLIA... HEH... THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, HIRYU...
I THOUGHT YOU AND CAIN WERE AN ITEM...
ANYWAY, WHAT ABOUT YOU...?
HEY, HOLD ON! I'M ONLY 19 YEARS OLD...!
SO, DID YOU SETTLE DOWN... AND GET MARRIED?
KRRK
IDIOT!!
WHAT?! YOU SHOULD HOOK UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
...I'M STILL SINGLE!

CAIN!
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE?
HIRYU'S HERE! HE HELPED ME RESCUE YOU...!
.....
.....

.....
.....
VREEE
CLANG
VREEE
WE ALSO MANAGED TO RETRIEVE YOUR CYPHER FOR YOU...
.....
.....
GLARE
.....
.....?
GRIP
EH?
SHEENA! GET BACK!!
KSH

SHIN
AIEEE!
C... CAIN...
WHY...?
BAM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CAIN?!
TMP

YOU CAME TO KILL ME.
HI... RY... U...
TMP
!!
COME... ON...
HE'S SERIOUS!!

GET BACK, SHEENA!
CAIN, STOP IT!!
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT YOU'RE NOT CAIN.
FWP
BUT I JUST COULDN'T DO IT.
I CERTAINLY DID COME HERE TO KILL YOU...
FW
SH
YOU'RE NOT THE CAIN I KNEW!!
AIEEE!

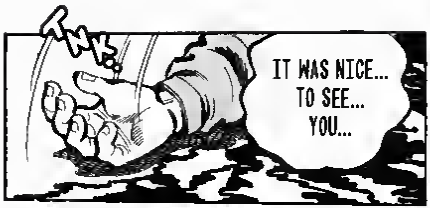
KA
SHNG
WHA!!
WHAK WHAK WHAK WHAK WHAK
BKSH
...NNH?
YOU CAN NOT ESCAPE, HIRYU!!
KA
BAM

KA-SHING
BA-WSH
WHP
HEH... HEH...
STOP THIS ALREADY, CAIN!
SNAP OUT OF IT!!
GRAB

WHD
LET... ME... GO...
EH?!
FMP
CAIN...
SHEEE-NAAA ~!!
SLASH

WHD..
C... CAIN...
YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH~!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!
SHNK!

OOOH!
UWA-A-A-AH!
?!
WHO!
A-A-AGH...
OO-WA-A-A-AH~
SHEENA!
I BARELY GRAZED HIS NECK.
WHAT HAPPENED ...?

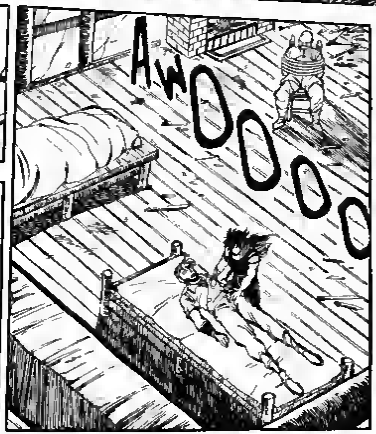

TWK
IT WAS NICE... TO SEE... YOU...

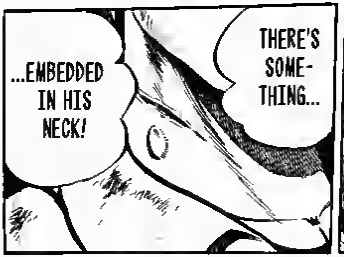
HI... HIRYU...
I THOUGHT... I'D NEVER... SEE YOU... AGAIN...

SHEENA!!

AWOOOO

HM...?!


AWOOOO

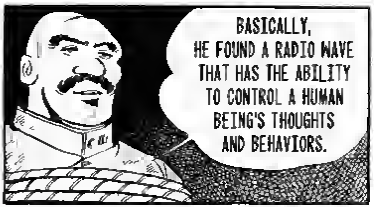

THERE'S SOME-THING...
...EMBEDDED IN HIS NECK!

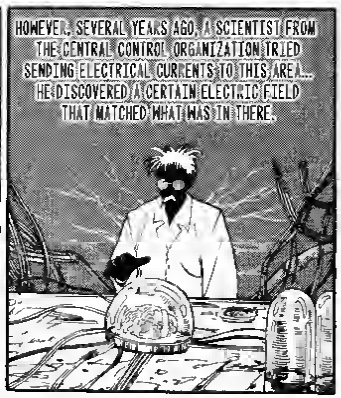
...IT APPEARS TO BE A SIGNAL RECEIVER... BUT..?
I WONDER WHAT IT IS.
FEH!
I... I DUNNO!!
YOU BASTARD! WHAT'D YOU DO TO CAIN?!!
AH!!
THE ZAIN PROJECT?
HONEST! IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE "ZAIN PROJECT" BUT THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW, NICE AND SLOW...?

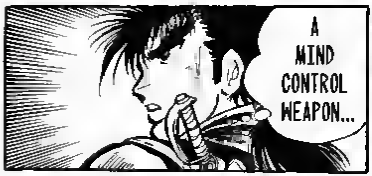
THERE'S A MYSTERIOUS PART OF THE HUMAN BRAIN WE REFER TO AS THE "CROCODILE'S AREA."

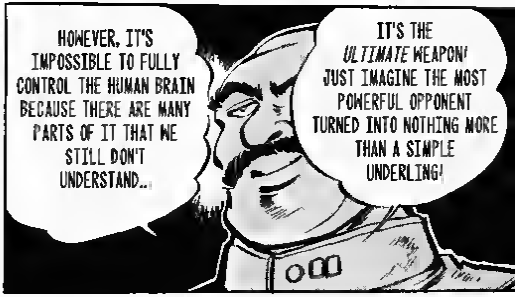
THE MOST PRIMITIVE BEHAVIORS LIKE "EATING," "SLEEPING," "KILLING," "FLEEING," AND SUCH COME FROM THIS PLACE.

WE GAVE IT THIS NAME BECAUSE IT HIDES DEEP IN THE SWAMP OF THE HUMAN SUBCONSCIOUS, LIKE A "BLACK CROCODILE" WAITING FOR LARGE PREY!




HOWEVER, SEVERAL YEARS AGO, A SCIENTIST FROM THE CENTRAL CONTROL ORGANIZATION TRIED SENDING ELECTRICAL CURRENTS TO THIS AREA... HE DISCOVERED A CERTAIN ELECTRIC FIELD THAT MATCHED WHAT WAS IN THERE.




HOWEVER, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FULLY CONTROL THE HUMAN BRAIN BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY PARTS OF IT THAT WE STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND...
IT'S THE *ULTIMATE* WEAPON! JUST IMAGINE THE MOST POWERFUL OPPONENT TURNED INTO NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE UNDERLING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
HIRYU? IT'S YOU, HIRYU, ISN'T IT?
.....
.....
SKSH
.....
.....
HE'S COMPLETELY BACK TO HIS SENSES.
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL!
WHERE AM I? HOW ON EARTH DID I GET HERE?
WHO'S THIS...?
HUH?
STOP! DON'T LOOK!!

WHO KILLED HER?!!
WHO DID THIS?
SHEENA!!
AUGH!
SHUT UP!
WHAT?
HEH... ACTUALLY, YOU KILLED HER!
THIS IS A CYPHER WOUND...
.....
.....

WITH THIS HAND...?
I KILLED SHEENA?
HIRYU...
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
CAIN...YOU WEREN'T CONSCIOUS WHEN IT HAPPENED. THEY WERE CONTROLLING YOU.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!!
WAM
WAM
WAM
I KILLED SHEENA?!
IT CAN'T BE-!!
WHAT'S THAT GOTTA DO WITH ANY OF THIS-?! LEMME GO!
CAIN, THINK ABOUT THE EVENTS FROM TWO YEARS AGO THAT CAUSED ME TO LEAVE THE STRIDERS.
CAIN, STOP IT!
GET AWAY FROM ME, HIRYU.

.....
.....
THAT SITUATION WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME.
IT WAS BACK WHEN I KILLED MY BIG SISTER...

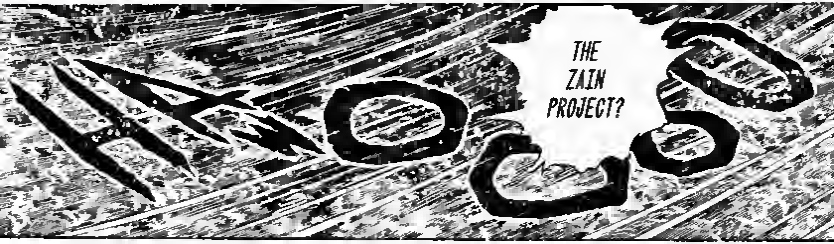
MY SISTER...
...SUDDENLY WENT MAD FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON AND KILLED ABOUT TEN OF THE TRAINEES.

MY BIG SISTER WAS THE FIRST FEMALE STRIDER TO EARN AN "A" RANK...
EVERYONE WHO TRIED TO STOP HER FAILED... SO IN THE END, IT WAS UP TO ME.

PLEASE CALM DOWN —
KA
SHI
N
G
SISTER! IT'S ME! IT'S HIRYU!!
KA
WHK
SISTER!
KHEE-EEE-EE !!
SISTER...
H... HIRYU... WHAT ON EARTH... HAVE I...
NK
CH

THE OBJECT THAT WAS EMBEDDED IN YOUR NECK WAS ALSO IN HERS!!
I'M CERTAIN I SAW SOMETHING...
YOU HAD THAT EXACT SAME LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
WHEN SHE CAME BACK TO HER SENSES, HER FACE WAS OVERCOME WITH A LOOK OF SURPRISE...
BESIDES THAT...
GLARE
THEY TURNED MY SISTER INTO A GUINEA PIG FOR THEIR GODDAMN EXPERIMENTS!
BAM
DAMMIT!! WHAT A SHITTY THING TO DO!
CAIN, STOP IT!
GET OUTTA MY WAY! AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO SHEENA, THIS GUY'S MINE!!
AIEEE! SOMEONE PLEASE SAVE ME!
I'M GONNA CUT YOU TO PIECES!!

WHEN COMPARED TO THE MASSIVE SIZE OF THE "ZAIN PROJECT," THIS GUY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TINY PISSANT.


THE ZAIN PROJECT?

SHEENA!

GRAB
DAF
CHNK
HOW ARE YOU GONNA HANDLE THIS...?
BY NOT COMPLETING YOUR MISSION, YOU'LL TURN EVERY MEMBER OF THE STRIDER ORGANIZATION AGAINST YOU.
YEAH.

I'LL KICK EVERY SINGLE BASTARD INVOLVED IN ITS DEVELOPMENT STRAIGHT DOWN TO HELL!!
I'LL SHOW NO MERCY AS I RIP THIS INFERNAL WEAPON APART, DOWN TO THE VERY LAST CIRCUIT.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES:

I STARTED THIS PROJECT TO IMPROVE MY JAPANESE SKILLS, TEST SOME FONTS, AND PRACTICE A FEW DIGITAL EDITING TECHNIQUES. ALL OF THE SOUND EFFECTS WERE HAND-DRAWN IN AN ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE FEEL OF THE ORIGINAL VERSION AND CREATE AS PROFESSIONAL OF A PRESENTATION AS POSSIBLE. I HAD CONSIDERED FLIPPING THE PAGES SO THAT THEY WOULD READ FROM LEFT-TO-RIGHT BUT THERE WERE VARIOUS SPOTS WHERE I WASN'T HAPPY WITH WHAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE TO THE ARTWORK TO MAKE SOME OF THE MORE ICONIC SYMBOLS WORK PROPERLY. ALSO, GIVEN THE TONE OF THE COMIC, I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE THIS STEP WOULD BE ENTIRELY NECESSARY ON THIS PROJECT.

THE FONTS ARE ALL CUSTOM MADE AND I'M STILL ADJUSTING AND OPTIMIZING THEM. PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR THEM; I WILL RELEASE THEM WHEN I FEEL THEY ARE READY.

MANY THANKS GO TO THE STRIDER CITADEL AND THE LIGHT SWORD CYPHER MAINFRAME FOR THEIR HELP IN CHECKING MY TRANSLATIONS.

CHAPTER 2 TRANSLATION NOTES:

THERE'S NOT A LOT TO SAY ABOUT THIS CHAPTER. IN THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE TEXT IT WASN'T ENTIRELY CLEAR WHO WAS TELLING HIRYU TO KILL CAIN. IT COULD HAVE BEEN HIRYU HEARING MATIC'S ORDERS OR JUST WHAT HIRYU WAS TELLING HIMSELF, SO I INTENTIONALLY TRIED TO KEEP THIS ASPECT A LITTLE BIT VAGUE IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

ALSO, SOME OF THE EARLY CAPCOM LITERATURE REFERS TO HIRYU AS A "SUPER-A RANK" STRIDER. THIS HAS BEEN TRACED BACK TO A PARAGRAPH IN THE POORLY-TRANSLATED NES MANUAL AND IS NOT AN ACCURATE TRANSLATION (THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OTHER CONFIRMED MISTRANSLATIONS IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH). MOST OF THE ARCADE GAME MATERIALS SIMPLY REFERRED TO HIRYU AS AN "A RANK" OR THEY DID NOT GIVE HIM A RANKING AT ALL AND JUST SAID HE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF THE STRIDERS. THE MANGA REFERS TO HIRYU AND CAIN AS "特A級ストライダー" WHICH DOES NOT TRANSLATE TO "SUPER-A RANK" PROPERLY.

THIS IS A FAN-PRODUCED SCANSLATION AND IT IS NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OR SOLD FOR PROFIT OF ANY KIND. DO NOT UPLOAD THESE IMAGES TO ANY OTHER SITES, INCLUDING ONLINE MANGA ARCHIVE SITES, WITHOUT PERMISSION.
FOR MORE INFO VISIT HTTP://WWW.LSCMAINFRAME.NET/FEATURES/MANGA/INDEX.HTML

- KAIJIN